

follow-up copy of my remarks in the mail shortly.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following letters.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 17, 1998.

DAN GLICKMAN,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
(USDA), Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY GLICKMAN: As I am sure you are aware, the prices for hogs moving from farms to the market are at their lowest levels in over 30 years.

I have spoken recently with many farmers in my district in central and southwestern Illinois, and they have shared with me their deep concerns about hog prices that have dropped to as low as 5 cents per pound, from 30 cents per pound less than 1 year ago. Many farmers in my district are losing money on every hog they sell, surrendering thousands of dollars every week, some on the verge of losing their farms altogether.

It is also my understanding that labor circumstances in Canada, and a short supply of space in packing plants across the country have helped to fuel this agriculture crisis.

While in the past many grain and commodity farmers relied on government control of the marketplace, hog farmers have traditionally been free of government intervention. However, I feel the government can not stand idly by, while farmers in my district lose their farms, especially due to circumstances beyond their control.

Today my office was in contact with Mr. Enrique Figueroa of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service regarding what steps the Department is taking toward helping our farmers out of a very grave crisis. During our meeting, he indicated to me that the \$50 million purchase of hogs for food assistance will be accelerated, pork will be included in the upcoming allocation of credit guarantees to support exports to South Korea, a Pork Crisis Task Force will be created, and the FSA and USDA will be involved in restructuring loans and loan practices in order to help pork producers deal with recent losses.

I would respectfully urge you to expedite those actions you have proposed with all due diligence, and to take any other necessary steps to help these struggling farmers in Illinois and across the country.

Hog farmers in Illinois are among the most safe, efficient and reliable producers in the world, and we must allow them the opportunity to survive in what has recently become a very volatile marketplace.

In the coming days and weeks, I will continue to be in close contact with pork producers in my district and with the Department, to ensure that family farmers in my district have every opportunity for a bright and secure future.

Thank you for your prompt action and consideration. Please feel free to contact me, as time is short for many farmers in my district.

Sincerely,

JOHN SHIMKUS,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 8, 1999.

Hon. LARRY COMBEST,
Chairman, House Agriculture Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMBEST: As I am sure you are aware, the prices for hogs moving from farms to the market are at their lowest levels in over 30 years.

I have spoken recently with many farmers in my district in central and southwestern Illinois, and they have shared with me their deep concerns about hog prices that have dropped to as low as 5 cents per pound, from 35-40 cents per pound less than 1 year ago. Many farmers in my district are losing money on every hog they sell, surrendering thousands of dollars every week, some on the verge of losing their farms.

It is also my understanding that labor circumstances in Canada, and a short supply of space in packing plants across the country have helped to fuel this agriculture crisis.

While in the past many grain and commodity farmers relied on government control of the marketplace, hog farmers have traditionally been free of government intervention. However, I feel the government can not stand idly by, while farmers in my district lose their farms, especially due to circumstances beyond their control.

I urge you to take action to help our family farmers see their way through this crisis. Hog farmers in Illinois are among the most safe, efficient and reliable producers in the world, and we must allow them the opportunity to survive in what has recently become a very volatile marketplace.

Thank you for your prompt action and consideration. Please feel free to contact me, as time is short for many farmers in my district.

Sincerely,

JOHN SHIMKUS,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, January 15, 1999.
Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. RICHARD GEPHARDT,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MESSRS. HASTERT AND GEPHARDT: We are writing to alert you to the severe problems facing family farmers in the pork industry. Pork prices have plunged to their lowest level since the Great Depression, dropping nearly 80% compared with last year, leaving pork producers struggling to hang on to their farms.

On January 8, 1999, a number of Members met with Under Secretary Mike Dunn and several other high-ranking USDA officials to exchange ideas about what can be done to bring relief to our nation's hog farmers. Those present at the meeting agreed that this issue is of utmost importance and needs to be addressed quickly by both the Administration and the Congress.

We are working together to develop a plan that can be brought to the entire House for passage and implementation. We are willing to discuss any idea that can assist our pork producers, from changing current USDA regulations to providing supplemental appropriations.

It is essential that the Leadership of Congress work in a bipartisan manner to allow Congress to take the necessary steps to address this important issue in an expeditious manner. We believe Congress needs to act as soon as possible, but certainly prior to the beginning of the spring planting season at the end of March.

Thank you in advance for your serious consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you to improve the economic conditions facing America's pork producers.

Sincerely,

Jim Nussle; David Minge; Leonard L. Boswell; Bill Barrett; Ray LaHood;

Jerry Weller; John Shimkus; Jerry F. Costello; Jim Leach; Earl Pomeroy; Ron Kind; Thomas Ewing; Marion Berry; Tom Latham; Gil Gutknecht; Lane Evans; Doug Bereuter; David Phelps; Bob Etheridge; David McIntosh; Debbie Stabenow; John Thune.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELDON of Florida). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1503

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DREIER) at 3 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 350, MANDATES INFORMATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-6) on the resolution (H. Res. 36) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 350) to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. SKEEN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. JONES of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DUNCAN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MILLER of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCINTOSH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHAFFER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LEACH, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BOEHLERT, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 4, 1999, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

307. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Fenpropathrin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300763; FRL 6047-3] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received January 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

308. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Imidacloprid; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300771; FRL 6051-6] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received January 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

309. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Propiconazole; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300770; FRL-6049-8] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received January 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

310. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Organization and Operations of Federal Credit Unions—received January 11, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

311. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants; National Emission Standards for Radon

Emissions From Phosphogypsum Stacks [FRL-6229-4] (RIN: 2060-AF04) received January 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

312. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans Georgia: Approval of Revisions to Georgia State Implementation Plan; Vehicle Inspection/Maintenance Program [GA 34-2-9902a; FRL-6227-7] received January 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

313. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Waivers for PM10 Sampling Frequency—received January 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

314. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Plan for PM2.5 NAAQS Review [FRL-5913-4] received January 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

315. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Guidance for Network Design and Optimum Site Exposure for PM2.5 and PM10—received January 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

316. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Implementation Plan—PM2.5 Monitoring Program—received January 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

317. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Interim Implementation of New Source Review Requirements for PM2.5—received January 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

318. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Guidance for Implementing the 1-Hour Ozone and Pre-existing PM10 NAAQS—received January 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

319. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Guidance on Mitigation of Impact to Small Business While Implementing Air Quality Standards and Regulations—received January 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

320. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Early Planning Guidance for the Revised Ozone and Particulate Matter (PM) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)—received January 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

321. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Interim Air Quality Policy on Wildland and Prescribed Fires—received January 28, 1999, pursuant to

5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

322. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Collection and Reporting of PM10 Data—received January 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

323. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Final Guidance on Data Handling Conventions for the 8-Hour National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone—received January 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

324. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—PM2.5 Site Types and Sampling Frequency During CY-99—received January 28, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

325. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Ambient Air Quality Surveillance for Lead [AD-FRL-6221-2] (RIN: 2060-AF71) received January 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

326. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Utah; Salt Lake City Carbon Monoxide Redesignation to Attainment, Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes, and Approval of Related Revisions [UT-001-0002a; FRL-6201-8] received January 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

327. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision, Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control District [CA 211-0117a; FRL-6213-5] received January 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

328. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Confirmation of Approval and Technical Amendment to Update the EPA Listing of OMB Approval Numbers Under the Paperwork Reduction Act [OPPTS-66009D; FRL-6048-8] (RIN: 2070-AC01) received January 20, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

329. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—"Consolidated Guidance about Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance About Exempt Distribution Licenses," dated September 1998—received January 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

330. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Consolidated Guidance about Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance about Self-Shielded Irradiator Licenses, dated October 1998—received January 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.